Internet Telephony

3247. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the concept of Internet Telephony and how it is different from conventional telephone network;

(b) whether Government have any policy guidelines on Internet Telephony and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any future plans to promote Internet Telephony more aggressively and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Internet Telephony is a Type of Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony in which principle transmission network is public Internet. Conventional Telephone Network uses Circuit Switching while Internet Telephony uses Packet Switching.

(b) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were allowed to offer Restricted Internet telephony service in April 2002. As per the Licence for provision of Internet Service (including Internet telephony), Internet Telephony is a service to process and carry voice signals offered through public Internet by use of Personal Computer (PC) of IP based Customer Premises Equipments (CPE) connecting the following:

(i) PC to PC: within or outside India

(ii) PC in India to Telephone outside India

(iii) IP based H.323/Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) Terminals connected directly to ISP nodes to similar Terminals; within or outside India.

(c) Government has recently announced that Access Service Provider can provide Internet Telephony, Internet Services and Broadband Services.

Revival of I.T.I.

3248. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's largest telecom equipment manufacturing company ITI was established in 1948 and is India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU);